

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

establishing [[the]] an accounting session and allocating an accounting session identifier to the accounting session based on ~~receiving~~ a received request to establish an accounting session between an accounting server and at least one accounting client configured to that will generate costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs generated by the at least one accounting client in a network, which are associated with a request to establish the call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against the prepaid credit; and

collating charging update data in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier and the charging update data at the accounting server received from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of accounting clients that generate costs in relation to the call, the method further comprising:

establishing accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and the accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established;

receiving charging update data from each of the accounting clients to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier; and

collating the charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the

accounting server is located in a home network of the first terminal.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities:

service general packet radio service support node/gateway general packet radio service support node;

serving call service control function/proxy call service control function; [[and]] or
a network application server.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the accounting session identifier is allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a session initiation protocol message sent from the first terminal.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server via a diameter protocol message.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the charging update data is received from each accounting client to the accounting server in response to a diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein further comprising, in response to receiving a request to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit the method, ~~further comprises~~ looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network ~~[[is]]~~ comprises an internet protocol network.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the network ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a universal mobile telecommunications system network.

13-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to cause the apparatus to at least:

establish ~~[[the]]~~ an accounting session and to allocate an accounting session identifier to the accounting session based on ~~receiving~~ a received request to establish the accounting session with at least one accounting client ~~that will~~ configured to generate costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs are generated by the at least one accounting client in a network, which are associated with a request to establish the call between a first terminal and a second terminal and are to be charged against the prepaid credit, and

collate charging update data based on the accounting session identifier and the charging update data received from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

27. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to cause the apparatus to at least:

establish~~[[,]]~~ ~~[[the]]~~ an accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier based on a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server ~~that will~~ configured to generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal, and

direct sending of charging update data to the accounting server during the

call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the at least one accounting client [[is]] comprises a plurality of accounting clients generate costs in relation to the call,

the processor is further configured to cause the apparatus to establish accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and an accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established,

each of the accounting clients is configured to send charging update data during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier, and

the accounting server is configured to collate the charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities:

service general packet radio service support node/gateway general packet radio service support node;

serving call service control function/proxy call service control function; [[and]] or
a network application server.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a session initiation protocol message.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the charging update data is received from the accounting clients at an accounting server via a diameter protocol message.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the charging update data is received from each accounting client to the accounting server in response to a diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

35. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the processor is further configured to cause the apparatus to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the accounting server is located in a home network of a first terminal for the call.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a session initiation protocol message sent from a first terminal.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the processor is configured to cause the apparatus to send the charging update data by sending the charging update data ~~is sent~~ to the accounting server via a diameter protocol message.

40. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the

processor is configured to cause the apparatus to send the charging update data by sending the charging update data ~~is sent~~ to the accounting server in response to a diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

41. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the accounting server is configured to issue[[s]] the update requests periodically.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the apparatus is configured to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions configured to control a processor to perform a process, the process comprising:

establishing [[the]] an accounting session and allocating an accounting session identifier to the accounting session based on ~~receiving~~ a received request to establish an accounting session between an accounting server and an accounting client configured to ~~that will~~ generate costs to be charged against the prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs generated by the at least one accounting client in a network, which are associated with a request to establish the call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against the prepaid credit and in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit; and

collating charging update data in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier and the charging update data at the accounting server received from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

44. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

establishing means for establishing [[the]] an accounting session and for allocating an accounting session identifier to the accounting session based on receiving a request to establish an accounting session with at least one accounting client configured to that will generate costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs are generated by the at least one accounting client in a network, which are associated with a request for establishing the call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against the prepaid credit; and

collating means for collating charging update data based on the accounting session identifier and the charging update data received from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

establishing means for establishing, [[the]] an accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier based on ~~receiving~~ a received request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server configured to that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request for establishing a call between a first and second terminal; and

sending means for sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions configured to control a processor to perform a process, the process comprising:

establishing [[the]] an accounting session being allocated an accounting session

identifier based on receiving a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server configured to ~~that will~~ generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal; and

sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

47. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

establishing ~~[[the]]~~ an accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier based on receiving a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server configured to ~~that will~~ generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal; and

sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising, ~~wherein~~ in response to receiving the request to ascertain, transmitting a response including an indication that costs generated by accounting clients in a network associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal are to be charged against prepaid credit.

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the apparatus comprises a transmitter configured to transmit a response including an indication that costs generated by accounting clients in a network associated with a

request to establish a call between a first and second terminal are to be charged against prepaid credit in response to the request to ascertain.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call.

51. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein update requests are received from the accounting server periodically.

52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the charging update data is sent to the accounting server via a diameter protocol message.

53. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising at least one memory storing computer program code, wherein the processor is configured, with the at least one memory and stored computer program code, to cause the apparatus to at least:

establish an accounting session and to allocate an accounting session identifier to the accounting session based on a received request to establish the accounting session with at least one accounting client configured to generate costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs are generated by the at least one accounting client in a network, which are associated with a request to establish the call between a first terminal and a second terminal and are to be charged against the prepaid credit, and

collate charging update data based on the accounting session identifier and the charging update data received from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

54. (New) An apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising at least one memory storing computer program code, wherein the processor is configured, with the at least one memory and stored computer program code, to cause the apparatus to at least:

In re: Koskinen, et al.
Appl. No.: 10/500,712
Amdt. dated September 9, 2009
Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2009

establish an accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier based on a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server configured to generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal, and

send charging update data to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.